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Application No.: 09/449,215

12-20-02

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In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121, please substitute for original claims 1-3, 7-14, 17, 20-21, 23, and 29-31, the following rewritten versions of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version Showing Changes Made."

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 24, and 25.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An image management system comprising:
- a picture and archival and communication system (PACS) server having a plurality of inputs and outputs, the inputs configured to receive image information signals and the outputs configured to provide image output signals, the PACS server configured to store information representative of a plurality of two dimensional image slices, and the output signals representative of the stored two dimensional image slices;
 - an imaging device having an output coupled to at least one of the inputs of the PACS server, and configured to provide an image signal; and
 - a PACS workstation having an input coupled to at least one of the outputs of the PACS server, and configured to receive output signals from the PACS server representative of selected two dimensional image slices stored by the PACS server, the PACS workstation configured to construct three dimensional image renderings from the two dimensional image slices and the PACS workstation having an output coupled to the PACS server and configured to provide the PACS server with a signal representative of the three dimensional rendering.
2. (Amended) The image management system of claim 1 wherein the three dimensional rendering signal may be stored by the PACS server as a three dimensional rendering file.
3. (Amended) The image management system of claim 2 wherein the three dimensional rendering file may be selectively communicated to a PACS workstation.

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7. (Amended) The image management system of claim 2 wherein the PACS server includes a three dimensional rendering file storage.

8. (Amended) The image management system of claim 1 wherein the PACS workstation is configured to provide a three dimensional rendering by multi-plane reconstruction (MPR).

9. (Amended) The image management system of claim 1 wherein the PACS workstation is configured to provide a three dimensional rendering by multi-plane volume reconstruction (MPVR).

10. (Amended) The image management system of claim 1 wherein the PACS workstation is configured to provide a three dimensional rendering by maximum intensity pixel (MIP) projection.

11. (Amended) The image management system of claim 1 wherein the PACS workstation is configured to provide a three dimensional rendering by volume rendering.

12. (Amended) The image management system of claim 1 wherein the PACS workstation is configured to provide a three dimensional rendering by surface rendering.

13. (Amended) The image management system of claim 2 wherein the three dimensional rendering file includes the parameters needed to reconstruct the three dimensional image rendering.

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14. (Amended) A method of producing a rendering of a three dimensional object from a plurality of two dimensional image information files, comprising:

receiving, by a picture archival and communication systems (PACS) server, a plurality of two dimensional image information files from an imaging device;

storing the plurality of two dimensional image information files on the PACS server;

communicating selected two dimensional image information files to the PACS workstation;

receiving the selected two dimensional image information files by the PACS workstation;

constructing a three dimensional image information file based on the selected two dimensional image information files; and

communicating the three dimensional image information file to the PACS server.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

receiving a plurality of two dimensional image slices by the PACS workstation.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

storing the three dimensional image file by the PACS server.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

communicating the three dimensional image file stored by the PACS server to the PACS workstation.

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23. (Amended) A medical imaging system, comprising:

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a medical scanner;

a picture archival and communication system (PACS) server coupled to the medical scanner and configured to receive and store signals representative of two dimensional image slices from the medical scanner;

a PACS workstation configured to receive selected signals representative of two dimensional image slices and configured to construct a three dimensional rendering file from the signals representative of the two dimensional image slices,

wherein the three dimensional rendering file is communicated to and stored by the PACS server.

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29. (Amended) The medical imaging system of claim 23 wherein the PACS workstation includes a display.

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30. (Amended) The medical imaging system of claim 29 wherein the PACS workstation is configured to provide a [partial] three dimensional rendering representative of the three dimensional rendering file on the display.

31. (Amended) The medical imaging system of claim 23 wherein the three dimensional rendering file may be selectively communicated to the PACS workstation.